

COUNTRY Hungary

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25X1 TOPIC 1. Promotion Procedures and Training of Officer Candidates in Hungary

25X1 2. Civilian Defense Officers

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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Promotion Procedures and the Training of Officer Candidates.

1. Prior to early November 1951, promotions in the Hungarian Army were announced on Communist holidays, i. e. 4 April, 1 May, 7 November and 21 December. On these days, prescribed quotas of NCOs and EM were promoted to the next higher rank. It sometimes occurred that EM were advanced two ranks. Promotions on days other than stated were relatively seldom. It was the general practice that cadets of officer candidate schools graduated as junior lieutenants and were promoted to the rank of lieutenant after a year and then promoted to the rank of senior lieutenant after three years.
2. The courses at the officer candidate schools began every October. During the three months preceding October, political officers and DISZ secretaries conducted recruiting campaigns among the soldiers, pointing out the financial advantages of an officer career. Most of the recruiting speeches were held before large audiences. Bachelor soldiers were given preference. Candidates could volunteer for a specific officer school but these requests were usually ignored. The political officer and the company or battery commander concerned jointly made an evaluation of the applicant, while the counterintelligence agencies provided data on his background and relatives. Applicants with relatives abroad were usually rejected. The general tendency was to select future officers from the class of farmers and workers. Before being admitted to an officer candidate school, every applicant had to pass an entrance examination. Civilians who were recommended by Communist Party officials were also examined. Every candidate was subjected to a physical inspection as well as a political and military examination. The physical examination was very strict and candidates with only minor deficiencies were rejected. The political examination centered on current events and was not very thorough. Military knowledge was the least important part of the examination. The candidates who passed the entrance examination were assigned to the individual officer candidate schools according to their requirements. In the fall of 1951, most of the candidates were sent to the AAA and technical officer schools.
3. According to a special decree of the War Ministry, all the students at the Budapest Institute of Technology were being trained as technical officers. After completion of their studies, the students were qualified to be technical officers in the reserve corps. Both summer and winter training courses were held. The summer training was held in September and October. In 1951, friends

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[] were at a training camp near Szengotthard (Y 3/C 45). [] other training camps were near Lake Balaton. The students were given basic training and subsequently a special technical training. Evening hours were devoted to the study of technical problems.

Hungarian War Academy.

4. From officers and EM of the War Academy (Hadiiskola) [] the 25X1 academy consisted of a technical and a general military section. Usually, the technical courses were attended by soldiers with technical qualifications irrespective of rank. They graduated from the academy after about six months and were then assigned to high echelon headquarters as technical officers. 25X1 Study at the military section of the academy lasted four years. Graduates from these courses left as majors or lieutenant colonels to be assigned to high echelon headquarters. Entrance examinations for the war academy lasted a week.
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Civilian Defense Officers.

5. After the spring of 1951, special civilian defense officers including women were observed on the streets of Budapest. These officers wore dark green or dark blue uniforms with insignia of the technical troops. After attending a special training course they organized passive air defense courses in factories, communities etc. and air raid protection measures in the country.

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